SNOMED CT:

* Is the most comprehensive and precise, multilingual health terminology in the world.
* Has been, and continues to be, developed collaboratively to ensure it meets the diverse needs and expectations of the worldwide medical profession.
* Assists with the electronic exchange of clinical health information.
* Can be mapped to other coding systems, such as ICD-9 and ICD-10, which helps facilitate semantic interoperability.
* Is accepted as a common global language for health terms in over 50 countries.
* Is a resource with extensive, scientifically validated clinical content.

History Of SNOMED CT  
  
SNOMED CT is a growing and evolving product that has emerged over the decades from two primary roots.  
  
In 1965, the Systematized Nomenclature of Pathology (SNOP) was published by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) to describe morphology and anatomy. In 1975, under the leadership of Dr. Roger Cote, CAP expanded SNOP to create the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED). The most widely adopted version of SNOMED was SNOMED II, which was initially published in 1979. A major expansion and revision published in 1993 was called SNOMED International, or SNOMED 3.0. Then in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente, CAP developed a new logic-based version called SNOMED RT, first published in 2000.  
  
Meanwhile, the Read Codes, developed originally in the UK in the 1980s by Dr. James Read, eventually evolved into Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) under the National Health Service.  
  
A three-year project to merge the CTV3 and SNOMED RT was begun in September 1998 under the ownership of CAP. The result was the first version of SNOMED CT, released in January 2002.  
  
In 2007, the newly formed IHTSDO acquired the intellectual property rights to all versions of SNOMED.  
  
Although SNOMED was originally an acronym for Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine, it lost that meaning when SNOMED was combined with CTV3 in 2002. The merged product was called SNOMED Clinical Terms, which was shortened to SNOMED CT. IHTSDO considers SNOMED CT to be a brand name, not an acronym.